GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5286
ANSWERED ON:28.08.2001
SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre for Research on Indo-Bangladesh relations has revealed that clandestine relationship exists among smugglers of both the countries;

(b) it so, whether it has been unearthed that 2500 cattle are being smuggled every day into Bangladesh from India through long stretch of border from North Bengal to south Bengal and border security force personnel local Panchayat members and the police are involved in this nefarious activity; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (I.D. SWAMI)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Centre for Research in Indo-Bangladesh Relations has produced a report titled ``Cattle Smuggling Across Indo-Bangladesh borders`. The said report alleges, inter-alia, about cattle smuggling from India.

(b) & (c): It is not possible to furnish the precise figure on the number of cattle smuggled everyday to Bangladesh. India shares a long and porous border with Bangladesh. The Central Government have employed Customs authorities and Border Security Force to prevent smuggling of the cattle and goods. Individual cases of involvement of the Border Security Force personnel are reported from time to time. Disciplinary action is taken as per the BSF Act and Rules. In order to prevent smuggling, the Government have taken various measures which include raising of additional battalions of Border Security Force, reduction of gaps between the border outposts, intensification of patrolling both on the land and the riverine border, accelerated programme of construction of border roads and fencing, increase in the number of outpost towers, provision of surveillance equipments etc.